



Developing
the partnership
between our
schools and the
community

CONNECT

WITH PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Schools Called Upon for Info, Help

At middle schools, the focus is on keeping parents and students informed.

Fegely and Willowcreek Middle Schools are utilizing Homework Hotline. This system is a 24-hour contact line between the school and parents. Callers receive step-by-step instructions to guide them to the proper area of interest.

Homework Hotline is a versatile tool and has a variety of uses.

Students or parents can call for homework assignments any time of day or night. All they need to know is their student's grade and student schedule. A listing of teachers' codes by grade level is included in the recorded message. Teachers leave individual messages concerning homework and general classroom information.

Parents can call to report an absence at

their convenience, but if they don't, Homework Hotline will contact the home of students who are absent without an excuse.

The school's upcoming events are updated weekly and so is the menu for school lunches. Parents can stay in touch with a call to the right extension. They also have access to listen to options such as the Principal's Message, School News, Sports Reports, specific department news and specific club or organization news.

The school can activate the calling

system to call the general school population with messages such as an emergency school closing because of weather or activate a specific call group such as the music students to let them know that fund raiser monies are due.

Fegely's Hotline can be reached by calling 763-8164, and Willowcreek's at 763-8084. All community members, especially middle school parents, are urged to call. This is a modern approach to staying in touch with our schools.

Terry Levenda, Director of Secondary Education

The high school is focusing on goals to help students prepare for their future careers.

"We Educate Today for Tomorrow's Success" is the mission Portage High School has for its students.

To prepare young people for future careers, students are being challenged to take more demanding courses. Research supports this challenge by showing that one's earning potential increases the more math and science he or she takes in high school.

To assist students and

help increase their success in these more challenging courses, PHS is offering help after school.

Each Wednesday from 2:45 until 3:30 p.m.,

teachers and National Honor Society members will be in the north cafeteria to help students with their homework.

Dick Kirchner, PHS Principal



Mrs. Clara Clark, math teacher, assists Michele Stanton, senior, at the first after-school help session Oct. 4.

It is our pleasure to bring you this publication of CONNECT, a product of the Portage Township Schools. Our intent is to educate and inform all residents of the Portage Township School District about the exciting programs taking place in our schools and classrooms. During this school year, three editions of CONNECT will be mailed to your home. We trust you will find the publications interesting and enlightening. This publication will highlight the quality education that is alive and well in Portage.

Energy Plan Saving Precious Natural Resources

The Energy Education Program in Portage Township Schools is off to a most successful start.

After the first five months, the corporation has realized a savings of more than \$160,000. This result is due to the teamwork and cooperation of students, teachers, administrators and support staff. Their dedication and determination have resulted in a savings of almost 4 million kilowatt hours, 80,000 therms of natural gas and almost 6.5 million gallons of water.

Besides savings in dollars, there is also a favorable impact on the environment. Through the energy program, the corporation has prevented the emission of nearly 2 million pounds of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to removing 186 automobiles from the highways annually, or planting 384 acres of trees.

Congratulations and thank you to all who have made this success possible. Continue to look for ways to contribute to further savings.

David White, Energy Manager

DID YOU KNOW?

• The average kindergartner has seen more than 5,000 hours of TV—

more time than it takes to earn a bachelor's degree.

Career Planner Relates Education to Job Demands

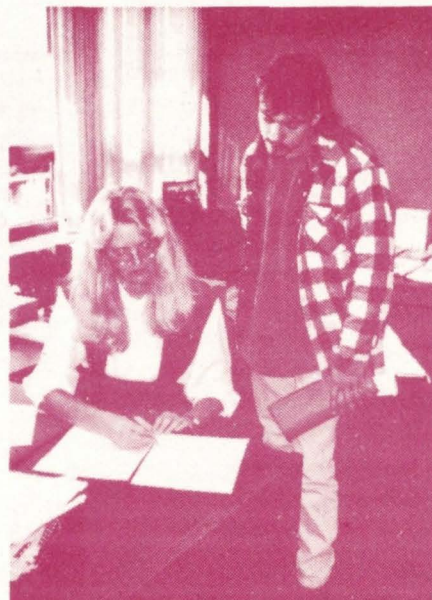
Career Pathways, a school-to-work transition program, is in its second year at Portage High School.

The program is a partnership between PHS and Kankakee Valley Workforce Development Services. It is designed to help students explore careers and understand how their education is connected to their future careers.

Sheri Ruge, career planner, is responsible for helping students make the necessary connections. Ruge helps students explore careers through a variety of assessments and activities, including job shadowing and establishing mentors for students. Ruge also emphasizes the importance of good attendance, punctuality, following of directions and many other skills that will be required in the world of work.

Several PHS students were able to put these skills into practice during the summer through Kankakee Valley's Summer Youth Employment Program. This program allowed students to develop additional skills as well as gain an understanding of why a good work ethic is so critical.

In another component of the Career Pathways program, three teachers from PHS and one from Willowcreek Middle School participated in "The Labor Market Information Connection". Mr. Mark Karmel, Mr. Patrick Moody, Mrs. Helen Mundell and Mrs. Janet Johnson



Mrs. Sheri Ruge, career planner, goes over an individual service strategy with Damion Unland, junior.

job shadowed many different occupations in Northwest Indiana to gain a better understanding of some of the skills required by employers. The teachers submitted action plans to show how they intended to use the information to teach students during the 1995-96 school year.

For more information on Career Pathways, contact Ruge at PHS East, 763-8100, ext. 502.
Sheri Ruge, Career Planner

Daggett Issues Challenge to All



Dr. Willard Daggett

The U.S. needs to take a hard look at its educational system.

That was one view expressed by Dr. Willard Daggett in an address Aug. 22 to school employees and the public.

Educators need to be more future oriented, Daggett said, in subjects such as mathematics, English and science. They need to hang onto traditional moral and cultural values

while also making classes relevant to the demands of the modern day workplace.

It's a tall order, Daggett said, considering that more is asked of the American education system than that of any other country. The biggest problem, he said, is the gap between the educational system and the needs of society. The U.S. lacks commitment to schools, he offered.

Daggett issued a challenge to ask where children of the future will work—and to offer more classroom experiences that prepare them to make oral presentations, work in small groups, get along with fellow employees, read and write technical reports and utilize modern technology.

Daggett is director of the International Center for Leadership in Education.

SSR Allows Reading for Enjoyment

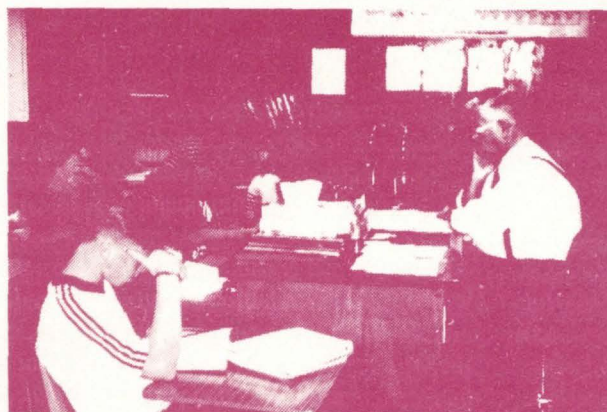
“Why is it so quiet?” visitors to Portage High School often ask when they visit early on Thursday mornings. The response—The entire school, students, faculty, administrators, custodians and cooks drop everything and read between 8:40 and 9:05, which is Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) time at PHS.

Research shows that the amount of independent, silent reading students do is significantly related to gains in reading achievement. Independent reading is probably a major source of vocabulary growth.

“Fluent readers score significantly higher on the SAT and other standardized tests,” said Stephen Krashen in *The Power of Reading Insights from the Research*.

In the fall of 1992, Carmel High School began a sustained silent reading program. Everyone in the school read something for enjoyment. The following spring, the PHS

library media specialists attended the Carmel presentation of the SSR program at the Association of Indiana Media Educators’ state conference.



It's all quiet on the Chemistry front in Mr. Marv Guernsey's class as students participate in Sustained Silent Reading.

Excitement grew as the possibilities for an SSR program at PHS were discussed with the PHS Reading Committee. This group is composed of a faculty member from each department and several students.

A trial period of eight weeks was set for fall, 1994. On Wednesdays (now Thursdays), the 25 minutes after first hour were set aside for reading, with each succeeding class shortened by only five minutes. SSR became popular with students and staff and is now in its second year.

Arlene Kramer, Library Media Specialist

Public Invited Golden Years Card Offered

To say “thanks” to citizens who have supported Portage Township schools over the years, the school system is offering a Golden Years Card.

This pass can be used for free admission into all athletic, drama and music events sponsored by our schools and held at our facilities.

This lifetime pass is issued to any Portage Township resident who is at least 62 years young. A Golden Years card can be obtained at the PHS athletic director's office during school hours by showing proof of residence and age.

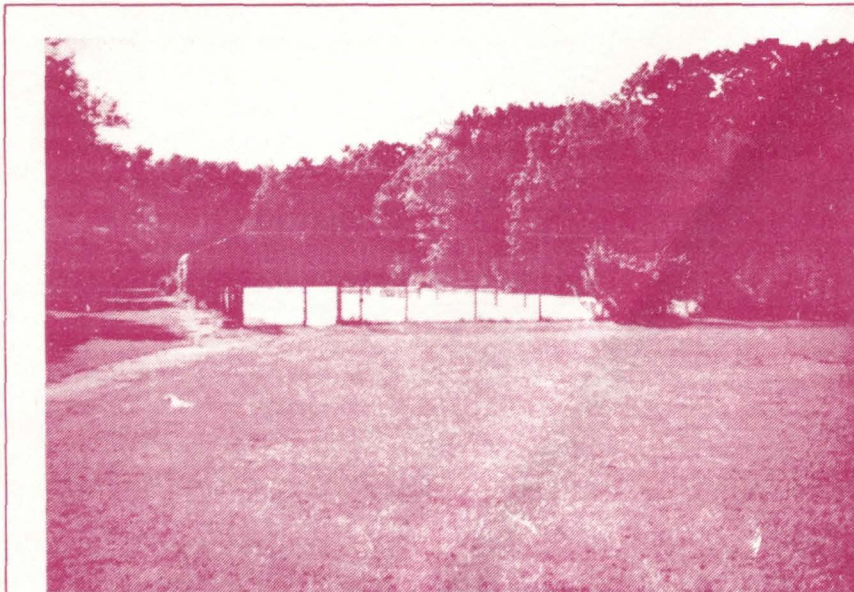
Walkers Welcome

As a service to the community, Portage Township Schools are open for walkers.

Avoid the bad weather and walk indoors. Please sign up in the office of the building in which you will walk before beginning your exercise program. The hours are as follows:

Portage High School East, Fegely and Willowcreek Middle Schools 6:45-10:15 a.m.
..... 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Aylesworth, Central, Jones, Kyle, Myers, South Haven and Saylor Elementary Schools 6:45-8:30 a.m.

Boys and Girls Club for Portage



A new Boys and Girls Club for Portage is closer to reality, thanks to the cooperative efforts of the City of Portage and Portage Township Schools. The City of Portage has agreed to donate nine acres of land to the Portage High School Student Builders Program in exchange for the Portage Township Schools’ donation of five and one-half acres for the new Boys and Girls Club. The site for the club is presently occupied by the tennis courts pictured near Willowcreek Middle School and Aylesworth Elementary School.

School Calendar

FOR INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS
ABOUT SCHOOL PROGRAMS
CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT AT 762-6511

November

- 23 *NO CLASSES*—Thanksgiving
24 *NO CLASSES*—Thanksgiving
Holiday

December

- 21 *NO CLASSES*—Christmas
Holiday Begins

January

- 3 *CLASSES RESUME*—All
Grades
11 1st Semester Ends—Grades K-8
1/2 Day—Grades 9-12
Full Day—Grades K-8
12 1st Semester Ends—Grades 9-12
1/2 Day—Grades 9-12

- 12 *NO CLASSES*—Grades K-8
2nd GRADING PERIOD ENDS—43
DAYS
15 *NO CLASSES*—Martin Luther King
Day
16 SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS—
All Grades

February

- 16 *NO CLASSES*—Winter Holiday
19 *NO CLASSES*—President's Day

March

- 22 3rd GRADING PERIOD ENDS—47
Days

April

- 1 *NO CLASSES*—Spring Vacation

Begins

- 9 *CLASSES RESUME*—All
Grades

May

- 27 *NO CLASSES*—Memorial Day

June

- 5 1/2 Day—Grades 9-12
2nd Semester Ends—Grades K-8
Full Day Classes—Grades K-8
6 2nd Semester Ends—Grades 9-12
4th GRADING PERIOD ENDS—
46 Days
1/2 Day—Grades 9-12
NO CLASSES—Grades K-8
7 Teacher Record Day

Dental Class Moves to PHS

Portage High School has gained a class that was named the outstanding vocational program in the state last year.

The Dental Health Careers class serves 16 Portage seniors in the morning and 10 from elsewhere in the county in the afternoon. It moved from the Valparaiso career center this fall. By taking this class, students are earning extramural hours required at the university level.

Mrs. Lynn Wilson and Mrs. Audra Peterson teach the course as a team. They also instruct Medical Terminology and Ethics, a semester course for which dual college credit is available. A student who earns at least a B in Medical Terminology can earn three credit hours at Indiana University Northwest.

Students attended a continuing education seminar in October about OSHA regulations.



Wendy Gilbert acts as "dentist", with Jill Priest assisting, on "patient" Erica Davis in Dental Health Careers class.

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WITH PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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PORTAGE, IN
46368

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